THE HINDOO PATRIOT

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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 19TH DECEMBER.

MR. THOMAS of Madras, who is noted for his piscicultural zeal, and who acquired considerable notoriety by his display of temper in connection with the Ilbert Bill in the Legislative Council of India, lately delivered a lecture on what he calls that "interesting useful animal," the mosquito. He says that it passes the first two days of its existence in the form of an egg; then it becomes a maggot, and lives in that state in water for twenty days, eating up all the offal in the element of its abode. Its next condition is that of a pupa, in which it passes a day and a half, and then comes out as a winged insect in which state it flourishes for three or four days, feasting on the blood of men and quadrupeds, never hesitating to perch even on the nose of an emperor. It instils a poison into the wound it causes by biting, in order to make the blood thin enough for its enjoyment. We are not in a position to vouch for the accuracy of some of the facts mentioned, but we have no hesitation in denying the fact about its "biting." Mosquitos never bite. They have no teeth or gums to bite with. What they do is to puncture our skin with a hollow trunk very like an acupuncturation-needle and suck our blood. It would be a solecism to say sucking is the same as biting.

BAD feeling is said to exist between the Governors of Herat and Kandahar. The latter, Sirdar Nur Mahomed, has fallen into disfavour with the Amir, who thinks he did not raise sufficient recruits during the Ghilzai rebellion, and that he may be removed. There has been no more fighting lately with Ghilzais, but a small number of them are still in arms between the Abistada lake and Kakar. General Gholam Hyder has gone into winter quarters at Mukur, where he has built extensive cantonments.

HERE is a good anecdote which will amply repay perusal,—"After he had become comparatively rich, the Queen politely, but firmly, cammanded Lord Palmerston to get married. Lord Melbourne (the then Premier) was a confirmed widower, and if the Foreign Secretary continued a bachelor, there would soon be a serious difficulty about the reception of ambassadresses. 'May it please your Majesty', said Lord Palmerston, 'I should only be too happy to marry if I knew any one who would have me.' The Queen graciously replied that there need be no difficulty on that head, and that if it were necessary, she would take upon herself to find a lady both ready and willing to become Lady P. So Lady Cowper was sent for from Rome, to reign for thirty years over the half of London Society. It is said by the way, that the lady decided her husband was to be Prime Minister long before the idea occurred to himself."

A CORRESPONDENT informs the Lahore paper that Mr. Pyne, the gentleman in charge of the Ameer's arsenal, is now in England, bringing out a complete set of machinery for making cartridges, the only important matter in which the arsenal is at present deficient. Another important work to which the Ameer is directing his attention is the bringing in of water to the Bala Hissar from a large natural spring. Iron pipes for this purposes are now being sent up in quantities from Peshawar to Cabul.

THE *Deccan Times* understands that the Nizam's Government has nominated a Committee to draw up a set of rules for the future regulation of printing presses and newspapers in Hyderabad. Attention to the want of any law on the subject in these dominions, our contemporary remarks, has been excited by the extraordinary growth of Journalism, Native and European, that has characterised the past few years.

THE *Times of India* says:—'Several indications lately of the rapid strides education is making in the Nizam's Dominions have been recorded, but none of them is so significant of the stimulus that has been recently imparted to the cause than the fact that no less than 92 candidates (seven of them girls) appeared at the recent Middle School Examination, at Hyderabad, besides the candidates that appeared at the several provincial centres. The arrangements made for the conduct of the examination under the superintendence of Mr. Seaton (in the absence of Mr. Hodson) were perfect. The Upper Primary Examination follows, and then the University Examinations. For the latter, nine have entered for the First Arts, and 52 for Matriculation, another most gratifying advance on former years.

TUESDAY, 20TH DECEMBER.

THE Italian Minister of Justice, Signor Zanardelli, has just drawn up a New Criminal Code, from which capital punishment has been omitted. There is a good deal of speculation in Italy as to whether the Legislature will finally abolish the punishment of death. Three times within the last twenty years the Chamber of Deputies has voted for its abolition; but in each case the Senate has refused to confirm the vote. Since King Humbert ascended the throne there has not been an execution; and it is argued that it is absurd and undignified to retain in the Code a penalty which is never applied. To this it is naturally objected that King Humbert will not live for ever, the succeeding monarchs may be less tenderhearted, or that some serious outbreak of crime against the person might render it necessary to make an example. It has more than once happened that when capital punishment has been abolished it has been found necessary to re-establish it. This was the case not long ago in several of the Swiss cantons.

IT is understood that the Secretary of State has promised Dr. Leitner a bonus of £1,500 in addition to the pension af Rs. 5,000 per annum granted to him by the Government of India.

THE October number of the *American Annals of the Deaf*, a publication which occupies itself exclusively with the literature of deaf-mute education, contains a brief but interesting article from the pen of the Right Rev. Mgr. de Haerne, member of the Belgian Chamber of Representatives. Mgr. de Haerne is the founder of the only Catholic institution in England for the training of deaf-mute children. 'In his contribution to the American periodical the venerable prelate recounts the efforts he has made in furtherance of the same good cause in China. Since 1860 he has been in correspondence on the subject of the deaf with missionaries in that country; and strange to say, in answer to his inquiries the uniform reply has been that there are few deaf-mutes to be met with in the Chinese Empire. This may have been the experience of the clergymen to whom Mgr. de Hearne addressed himself, but we do not think the statement can be accepted as a correct representation of the actual facts. Here in India the popular notion is that instances of deaf-mutism are compartively rare, yet we find from the Census returns that the proportion of persons suffering from this infirmity is even greater than that which obtains in European countries and on the continent of America. Taking the Bombay Presidency we learn from the last Census Report that there are no fewer than 16, 594 deaf and dumb persons, which gives an average of about one per thousand of the total population, whilst in Great Britain and Ireland the proportion is only one in 1,700, which is not far from the average in the principal countries of Europe. We do not doubt that if a reliable enumeration of this class were taken in China we should find a somewhat similar result. Mgr. de Harene's zealous efforts, though not entirely sucessful, have been attended with some fruit. He has awakened an interest in the education of this abandoned class, and already the nucleus of an institution exists at Shanghai in the Catholic Orphange of that city, which we trust will develop into a fully equipped school where some at least of the thousands of deaf-mute children in China may be rescued from ignorance and degradation.'

SOME idea of the of the rapid rate at which the prairies and forest land of the United States are bieng absorbed by settlers may be got from the annual return of Government sales registered at the Land Office in Washington. For the year which ended on the 30th of June last, these sales were of no less than 17,406, 658 acres, about equal to the extent of three States, Massachusetts, Vermont, and New Hampshire, combined. At such a rate of filling up there will be little scope for now lines of railway, and less for cattle-ranching, for sport, and for other pursuits of more primitive men, twenty years hence, in that enormous country. The figures given do not include lands handed over to railroad companies or swamp lands put under State management, but only sales to persons with cash in their hands, buying under the homestead and timber-culture laws. It may, therefore, be supposed that this annual addition to the cultivable acreage of the United States, which is equal to just half the acreage of England, will bear fruit in a still further addition to the supplies of produce offered by America.

WEDNESDAY, 21ST DECEMBER.

ON the occasion of the Meeting of the Behar Landholders' Association held on the 9th December 1887, to elect delegates to the National Congress, the Maharajah Bahadur of Hutwa, Vice-President of the Association, who presided, made a sensible speech. Expressing his sympathy with the objects of the Congress, he said: 'We, the landholders of Behar, have been watching with interest this Congress movement from the beginning, and as the movement is entirely constitutional and loyal, and one calculated to do a good deal of good to the country, we, whose interests are always identified with the interests of other classes of people, cannot but have sympathy with it. There is then a section of my countrymen who think that the Congress for claiming political rights and privileges is premature; some of these good-meaning people, I think they are so, say we ought to have Congresses for social reforms. Now, we all know that these are all very desirable objects to attain, but these people ought to know that there are separate and distinct methods of attaining them. Material wealth cannot be developed without capital, and a synod of capitalists, if my countrymen would have it, ought to decide as to the best way of carrying on that end. Social reforms, in a country so vast, inhabited by different castes, each caste and sub-division of caste having some peculiarity of its own, cannot be initiated without the whole consensus of castemen, and caste-people, and their Congresses can alone decide in the matter. Then there are some honest misgivings expressed here and there regarding the Congress movement. Some people who would judge you by result, ask what has the Congress of the last two years done? I would answer, they have done a good deal, and foremost of that work is to bring as it were in a focal point the scattered races of India, where if you were to go you could feel you have a country and owe certain duties to that country. But I ask these people, are two years not a short span in the life of a nation? Why then judge the Congress by the result of two years? Persevere, and you shall succeed in all your objects.'

THE *Darjeeling News* says:—'It is pretty apparent that trade with Thibet has been restored to a very great extent; as large numbers of Thibetans may be seen in the Bazar with their wares of kinds, and a really large quantity of wool has been sent off to Calcutta.'

NIHILISM in Russia is (according to reports received in Vienna) as widespread as ever it was. Quite recently upwards of three hundred domiciliary visits were made in one night at St. Petersburg, Kieff, Moscow, and Tver, with the result that 180 persons of both sexes were arrested. Seven Infantry and two engineer officers, who were among those arrested, committed suicide as soon as they found themselves in the hands of the police. Several more military officers were also apprehended, and have since been imprisoned in the fortress of Peter and Paul at St. Petersburg. In the capital, also, two secret printing offices were discovered. Nihilist proclamations announcing that serious action would begin after the return of the Czar have, notwithstanding the vigilance of the police, latterly been scattered broadcast in the chief centres of the revolution.

WE hear that His Highness the Maharajah of Jeypore may be expected to arrive at Calcutta by the end of January next. The Maharajah will be accompained by a large number of his State Tajimi Sirdars, Raj officials, and others.

HIS HIGHNESS the Rajah of Mandi has offered his services and the resources of his State to the Government for the frontier defences.

As SOME surprise has been expressed at the fact, brought out by the premature publication of a review of the forthcoming life of Darwin, of his practising such severe economy at a comparatively early period in his life, it may be well to mention that Mr. Darwin invested the money he inherited to very great advantage. The considerable fortune he left behind him was due to the variety and success of these investments, and to the fact that he made it an iron rule to live within his income. He told a friend, in speaking of his own character, that he regarded himself as a first-rate man of business.

THURSDAY, 22ND DECEMBER.

WHEN the last mail left, a series of telegrams from Berlin were being published at Paris giving a detailed account of the arrival of the Czar and Czarina in that capital, and the "very reserved" attitude of the Berliners towards the Emperor of Russia. A Paris correspondent, referring to this subject, says:—"We must read with slight feelings of doubt the commentaries of the Parisian Press on this very important event, for it is held as an article of faith here that there is no possibility of an *entente* between Russia and Germany."

ACCORDING to the *Electrical Review* when the electric telegraph was first introduced into Chili, a stratagem was resorted to in order to guard the posts and wires against damage on the part of the Araucanian Indians and maintain the connection between the strongholds on the frontier. There were at the time between forty and fifty captive Indians in the Chilian camp. General Pinto called them together, and, pointing to the telegraph wires, he said: "Do you see those wires?" "Yes, General." "Very good, I want you to remember not to go near nor touch them, for if you do your hands will be held and you will be unable to get away." The Indians smiled incredulously. Then the General made them each in succession take hold of the wires at both ends of an electric battery in full operation. After which he exclaimed: "I command you to let go the wire!" "I can't my hands are benumbed," said the Indian. The battery was then stopped, and the man released. Not long afterwards the General restored them to liberty, giving them strict injunctions to keep the secret, and not to betray it to their countrymen on any account. This had the desired effect, for, as might be expected, the experiment was related "in the strictest confidence" to every man of the tribe, and the telegraph has ever since remained unmolested.

COMPLAINTS have been made that officers who were given the Bath last summer have not yet received the insignia. The fact is, says *Truth*, that the number of creations during the present year has been so unprecedentedly large that a considerable sum is required to defray the expense of the insignia, and that the Treasury strongly objects to the expenditure. The representatives of deceased Knights of the Garter and other Orders have to return their insignia, but, for some reason, the costly insignia of the Bath is retained.

THE proposal of the "unemployed" to visit the exhibition of Jubilee presents at St. James' Palace caused much annoyance and anxiety to the Queen, who, says the *World*, was disposed to close the show at once. A riot within the precincts of the Palace would almost certainly have led to loss of life, and the shock and fright which any disturbance must have caused to the Duchess of Cambridge would possibly have proved fatal. It is fortunate that the excellent arrangements of the Lord Chamberlain's officials and the police authorities have rendered a mob invasion of the Palace practically impossible.

THE returns of the Calcutta branch of the Society for the prevention of cruelty to animals show that in November the fines inflicted for cruelty to animals amounted to Rs. 1,263. There were 163 convictions on charges of cruelty to horses and 623 convictions for cruelty to cattle.

AMONG the Parliamentary papers that had been issued when the last mail left England is a Return of Correspondence between the Government of India and the Secretary of State relating to the Concession of Mining Rights in the Deccan. It begins with an extract from a Despatch from the Secretary of State to the Government of India, dated Feb. 21, 1884, and ends with a letter from the Government of India to Lord Cross, dated March 15, 1887. The interests of the Nizam's Government appear to have been carefully protected by the India Office, and arrangements have been made for the exercise by the Resident at Hydecabad of supervision over the operations of the Concessionaires.

THE following news was current at Lahore not long ago: From Bannu comes news of a good deal of tribal fighting in which the Waziris are very active. The quarrel has arisen owing to the plundering of caravans. Travelling Central Asian merchants who have arrived in Peshawar describe the state of affairs along the Oxus river as by no means improved by the advent of the Russians to Charjui and Karki. Owing to stores of food having been collected at different spots by Russians, famine prices prevail everywhere, and the population is in considerable distress.

FRIDAY, 23RD DECEMBER.

THE representatives of the various countries of the Sugar Bounties Conference have signed a Protocol, and the conference has been adjourned indefinitely. A majority of the delegates made reservations of some sort or another when signing the Protocol. The British delegates modified (I notified) their assent to the appointment of a West India Committee.

IRISH repression continues, Mr. John Hooper, Member of the South-East Division of County Cork, who was arrested on the 10th instant for publishing reports of meetings of the National League has been sentenced to one month's imprisonment.

MR. David Sheehy, the Member of the South Galway, who was arrested on the 1st instant for seditious speeches, has been sentenced to three months' imprisonment. He had been released on bail pending the result of an appeal, but was rearrested soon afterwards for seditious language, and for inciting the people to resist the law at Clonmel. Mr. Sheehy has been conveyed to Clonmel in custody of the police.

THE Afghan Boundary Commission hoped to have completed the boundary pillars up to the Murghab River on Sunday last. They were then to march towards the Oxus.

THE *Hindu*, of Madras, states that "of the many distinguished Native gentlemen that will come to Madras from different parts of the country to attend the Congress, one of the most prominent will be the Maharajah of Durbhanga."

GREAT excitement has been caused at Kurrachi by a rumour that Ayub Khan is to reside there. The rumour owes its origin to the fact that the Collector is searching for a suitable residence. Ayub will be brought to Kurrachi by the steamer *King Arthur*, now in the Persian Gulf. Is not Kurrachi too near to Afghanistan?

ACCORDING to a Hyderabad correspondent, the munificent offer of the Nizam to the Government will be devoted to the maintenance of a regular well-disciplined force, officered after the fashion of British Government when it is in need of help.

AUBERTIN, who was arrested last week for firing at M. Ferry, has gone mad, and has been conveyed to a lunatic asylum.

BOH OHAMA is giving trouble in the Minbu District, and several bodies of troops have beeen despatched in pursuit.

ONE of the garrisons of the North-Western Provinces has just emerged, we are told, from the crisis of a thrilling sensation. It seems that on a recent occasion no fewer than seventy of the troops were poisoned, although fortunately they all recovered. On enquiry it was found that they had been drinking beer which contained a large quantity of arsenic, and it is believed that they owed their lives simply to the accident of the poison not having been stirred up from the bottom of the cask. The beer drawn from the cask was comparatively pure, but the dregs contained enough arsenic to poison a regiment. A scrutiny of several casks revealed the fact that the wood was saturated with the poison. It would appear that they had previously been used for holding arsenic. The beer came from one of the Indian breweries. Can the Commissariat have so much trust in the contractor as to take these things on trust and imperil the lives of the soldiers?

THE Pope, when receiving the Duke of Norfolk, expressed the most cordial feelings towards England and towards the Queen.

ISMAIL PASHA, the ex-Khedive of Egypt, has been accorded permission to reside in Constantinople.

THE projected visit of the Shah of Persia to Europe next year has been postponed until 1889.

THEIR Highnesses the Nizam of Hyderabad and Maharajah of Cooch Behar have become Vice-Patrons, and H. H. Maharani of Cooch Behar the Vice-Patroness of the National Indian Association of London.

A WRITER in *Vanity Fair* says:—"I am told that, whilst in Paris, the Gækwar of Baroda expended in three weeks a trifle of £50,000, or about £2,500 a day, besides which His Highness purchased works of art and bric-a-brac to the amount of £20,000. It is reported that our wealthy feudatory's trip to Europe has already cost him some £250,000.' Our Princes would be infinitely better off, it seems, if they had observed the old and much maligned "cast prejudices."

SATURDAY, 24TH DECEMBER.

A CONTEMPORARY says:—'Such is the jealousy in America of imported labour, that Acts of Congress, of February, 1885, and February, 1887, subject to heavy penalties any person who prepays transportation, or in any way assists the importation of migration of any alien or foreigner into the United States, under the agreement of any kind, made previous to such importation, to perform there labour or service of any description, (with a few exceptions). Captains of ships knowingly conveying such are liable to punishment by fine or imprisoument, and the aliens themselves are generally forbidden to land being sent back whence they came "by return of post." The Knights of Labour impose upon themselves the task of keeping a look out for such, and when they get wind of any luckless wight, they are down on him "like the wolf on the fold." Take an instance. A man in Texas lately sent over to Scotland for an overseer for his farm, but the Knights of Labour scented the affair, and sent that man back right away, without even allowing him to land. The Texas man had to pay the piper. Like most difficulties of the kind, however, this one possesses a loophole of escape, and that a pretty broad one. The wretched "alien" has only to declare his intention of becoming a citizen of "Airth's greatest nation," and he is received as a man and a brother. There is no need to go beyond the intention. This should be remembered by intending immigrants, not overburdened with scruples. The hint "from the other side" should not be thrown away on the British Government, in view of the late "Unemployed Demonstrations," caused largely by the importation of cheap German labour.'

AN electric railway for dinner-table is one of the recent achievements of French ingenuity (*La Nature*, October 29). It makes the presence of servants unnecessary. The train, which runs on a line along either side of the table before the dinners, consists of a platform pivoted on two bogies, one of which carries the motor, while the other is merely a supporting truck. The expenditure of electric energy is but slight, and the train is said to be thoroughly under control of the host.

There has been much speculation as to how the ancient Egyptians managed to erect their enormous monoliths, sometimes 100 feet in height and weighing hundreds of tons. An interesting recent article in the *Revue Scientifique*, by M. Arnaudeau, offers the explanation that water was employed. Round the obelisk, lying horizontally, with the base towards pedestal, was raised a circular inclosure, of height equal to that of the monolith. This latter had pieces of wood, or other floats, fitted to it, especially at the upper part; so that when water was brought into the inclosure, the obelisk rose gradually to the vertical. The process may be simply imitated by introducing the end of a screw nail into a piece of cork, putting it in a basin, and then introducing water.

THE East Bengal Landholders' Association has followed the British Indian Association in representing to the Bengal Government the illegality of levying a double income-tax on Jalker, Bunker &c The Memorial of the Association says:—

'That under certain rulings of the Commissioner of Income Tax, the rents derived from Bastu lands occupied by people not directly connected with agriculture, as also those derived from Jalker, Bunker, hat, bazar &c have been made liable to assessment under the Income Tax Act. That as the incomes mentioned above already bear taxation in the shape of the local cesses, your humble memorialists cannot believe that it is the intention of Government to tax the same income twice over. Instances of non-agricultural people such as village carpenters, goldsmiths &c who do not own agricultural lands are very rare, and as the cess returns include the value of all homestead lands whether belonging to agricultural men or not, such lands should be exempted from the operation of the Income Tax Act. That your humble memorialists, therefore, believe that the incomes mentioned above have been made liable to double taxation on account either of some defect in the wording of the law or some misapprehension as to its meaning. Your memorialists, therefore, humbly pray that some remedy be devised for the removal of the defect in question either by an amendment of the Act or by rules passed by your Honor under section 38 of the Act.

THE London correspondent of the *Liverpool Post* understands that a marriage will probably be arranged between Prince Alexander of Battenberg, late of Bulgaria, and the Princess Louise of Wales. The Queen is doing all she can to promote the match, though the Prince of Wales himself does not view it with much favour. If the marriage be arranged, Her Majesty will liberally dower the Princess.

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THE INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

(210, Bow-Bazar Street.)

(Session 1887-8.)

Lecture by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, on *Tuesday* the 27*th Inst.*, at 7 P. M.

Subject: Magneto-Electric and Volta-Electric Induction.

Mahendra Lal Sircar, M. D.,
December 24th, 1887. *Honorary Secretary.*

The Hindoo Patriot.

Monday, December 26, 1887.

A LOGICAL MUDDLE.

Addressing his colleagues in the Calcutta Corporation, Sir Henry Harrison the other day said: "It had been admitted that the Corporation during the past ten years had been a great success. If that was so, what was now wanted? If there had been such a success, the logical inference was 'continue as you was'. Though the Corporation with one-third nominated and two-third elected Commissioners had proved in many senses an extraordinary success, still he was bound to say that, if the numbers had been one-half of each, their success would have been still more extraordinary." The Honorable gentleman did not explain how he was "bound," whether by superior influence, or by moral conviction; but it is to be presumed that the latter was the case. If so, we feel disposed to ask, why does he not accept that course which would have secured to the Town "the still more extraordinary success"? He is the author of the Bill, and also in charge of it, and both as a legislator and the head of the Corporation he is morally bound to do that which would ensure the greatest amount of good. He should not propose, as he has done, to reduce the power of nomination by Government to one-fifth, when he is morally certain that the power of nomination should be increased to one-half. He is thoroughly sincere in his convictions, and unflinching in his determination to carry out what he thinks right and proper, and it is hard to conceive why such a gentleman should preach one thing and do something the very reverse of it. The logical argument may be pressed a little further. If one-half of nomination be better than one-third, it stands to reason that two-thirds should be better still, and the whole by far the best. If so, the logical conclusion should be that the whole is the best, and, therefore, it should be adopted, and Sir Henry is bound by his conviction to adopt that course which would render the highest amount of good to the Town. The Municipality is wanted for the good of the public, and not for any one particular section of the community dwelling in the Town, and no national or sectional consideration should be allowed to mar the development of the highest perfection. It is notable, too, that the most influential community in the Town, the English, do not take the smallest interest in the management of the local Municipal affairs; for the last four-and-twenty years they have been prominent by their absence from the meetings of the Corporation, and, engaged as they are in engrossing private business, they have no time to devote to the management of drains and cesspools. The unemployed among the Natives have more time at command; but their wishes in this respect need not deter our rulers from doing that which is right and proper. Our rulers have seldom been guided by the voice of the people. The entire nation protested against the Bengal Rent Bill, and it was carried in defiance of their protest; and they most piteously cried for the passing of the Ilbert Bill, and that was rejected. In truth, for the right administration of the country the Government should be guided solely and wholly by considerations of the highest good, and not by the claims of sectional interests. And such being the case, we can see no reason why selection should not entirely replace election. No man can speak on the subject with higher authority than Sir Henry Harrison, and, since he tells us that one-half nomination is better than one-third nomination, we are bound to accept it, and as he gives prominence to logical inference, we should by parity of reasoning conclude that nomination to the entire exclusion of election would be the best. It is probable, however, that Sir Henry does not wish his principle to be driven to its natural conclusion. He cannot have forgotten the days of nomination, pure and simple, when the Bengal, Behar and Orissa Justices created a scandal in Calcutta. He remembers that in very shame the Government was obliged to abandon the foreign cohort with which the late Mr. Schalch and Sir Steuart Hogg fought some of their notorious battles, and conquered. He bears in mind, too, the grave injustice that was done to the native inhabitants for the benefit of their European fellow citizens. Hence it is that he gives preference to the last ten years over the preceding decade. He admits that the administration of the Municipality under the control of two-thirds elected members has proved "an extraordinary success," which means, and can only mean, that it has been better than that of the wholly nominated Justices. If such is the case, and if we know any thing of logical sequences, the inference should be that the element which has effected the "extraordinary success" should be increased, and not reduced. Sir Henry is a master of logic, a thorough lawyer, a man of profound learning and vast experience, it is therefore difficult to conceive how he could reconcile the position that two-thirds having proved "an extraordinary success," its reduction to one-half will prove better. We are disposed to conclude that the thesis he has assumed is not the result of ratiocination on logical principles, but a mere *ipse dixit*,—a matter of opinion which his audience was bound to receive with profound respect. His reference to logic is a mere rhetorical flourish, and not intended to be discussed with reference to the principles laid down in the text-books on the subject, and it is needed in the interests of his countrymen whose claims he feels himself bound to support. Besides any stick is good enough to knock down a pariah.

Following in the wake of Sir Henry Harrison, Mr. Simmons, on the occasion under notice, waxed eloquent on the necessity of giving a preponderating influence to Englishmen in the counsels of the Municipality. He said, "it was precisely those who had only a temporary, and he would term, a fleeting interest, who had made the Town what it is, and who for that reason, had more interest and greater rights in it than others.' This is a mere paraphrase of what Sir Henry Harrison has often said, and altogether it is a piece of Bombastes Furioso signifying nothing. There is very little to show that the major term has a leg to stand on, and the conclusion drawn from it must, therefore, fall to the ground. The English merchants own about one-tenth of the land and of the houses of the Town, and their contributions to the municipal coffers by way of taxes is proportionately limited. In former times their landed possessions in the Town were less, and the taxes they paid were equally less, and with less land and paying less how can they be said to have made the Town what it is? The logic in this case pressed to the hilt would be that those who own nothing and pay nothing at all are the men who have made the Town what it is. True, they carry on large mercantile and trading speculations and thereby help the growth of the Town, but in that respect they represent only one of two co-ordinate factors. The other factor is the native element. The English merchants cannot, and do not, import more than what the Natives purchase, nor can they export a grain more than what the Natives sell them. So the indirect benefit done to the Municipality by the trade of the Town proceeds as much from the native as from foreign merchants, and the interest in it must be attributed equally to the two classes; neither has a preferential claim in the case. As a matter of fact, there are a large number of Native merchants who import and export largely, and if their share be excluded the claims of the foreign merchants must be proportionately reduced. This fact apart, the Natives being permanent residents have a greater interest in the permanent improvement of the Town than what those, who have only a "temporary" or a "fleeting" interest, who come to make money and go away the moment they have made it, can possibly have. The logic of the argument is apparent on the face of it; but selfish people cannot be expected to see it. In these days of logical muddles they must for their self-interest muddle every thing.

THE BENGAL COUNCIL.

It is undeniable that in theory the Governors of a country are better able to judge of its requirements than the governed. The Governors are always men of high administrative powers, of vast and varied experience, of thorough knowledge of the requirements for the well-being of the community placed under their rule. It is natural, therefore, to infer that, in selecting individuals for the discharge of governmental duties they are infinitely better qualified than the outside public, who are all more or less deficient in capacity, experience, and sense of responsibility. The latter, moreover, are open to many diverse sinister influences, and often led astray. This argument has been worked threadbare by those who are in favor of nomination being the best mode of selecting officers for the service of the State. They throw it on one's teeth ever and anon with a force that is truly astounding, and if that fails they get up a personal squabble by asking: "Do you mean to say that Earl this or Lord that, or Sir this or Mr. that, is capable of appointing any unqualified person?" When the late Mr. Peterson opposed the appointment of the Bengal, Behar and Orissa Justices on the Calcutta Municipal Board, Sir Ashley Eden at

once asked: "Do you mean to say that Sir Cecil Beadon will appoint any one who is not fully qualified?" And in the presence of Sir Cecil, Mr. Peterson was reduced to humming and hawing. Experience has, however, taught the world at large that election is better than nomination. In spite of caucuses and carpet-baggers, of bribery, intimidation and corruption, election has yielded better results than nomination. It is no wonder, therefore, that the people of this country shoud cry for it in the constitution of our Legislative Councils. The principle of nomination is that the Government should not only maturely consider the requirements of the offices for which men are wanted, but in matters of legislation also the interests of the different sections of the community concerned. This has often to be done to such an extent that men of mediocre talents have to be preferred to profoundly clever persons. It is undeniable that lawyers are better qualified to legislate than non-professional men. The former bring to the task a more thorough knowledge of the principles and working of laws than the latter, and yet the idea of a Council of Barristers, Vakils and Attorneys only would be shocking. It has nowhere been permitted in the civilised world. The Councils Act for India provides that each Council should include sixteen members of whom one-half should be non-officials, that is of persons not in Government employ. It is well-known that Government officers are generally more able and experienced in law affairs than the outside public, but Her Majesty the Queen and the wisdom of Parliament waived the claim of the officers for the sake of securing the co-operation of outsiders, believing that that would help to a better arrangement than the appointment of officers and lawyers solely. In carrying out the Act in this country our governors have been guided by the same considerations. In Bengal it has been the nvariable practice to select a representative of the English merchants and another of the English tradesmen. No one will have the hardihood to say that a tradesman is *ipso facto* equal to a merchant, but he has experiences which are wanting in the merchant, and he is better able to enlighten the Council in matters relating to trade than a merchant can be. For similar reasons we have representatives of the lawyers, the higher and lower Services, the Hindus and the Muhammadans. The representatives of these sections are not necessarily of equal merit and learning, but each of them brings some information for the Council which the others cannot, and in selecting them the Government should prominently bear in mind the requirements of the Council. It is a matter of regret that the Bengal Government has not always done so. It has rarely given us the full number of sixteen members, nor carefully selected representatives of all the more important interests in the country. Just now the Council comprises twelve, instead of sixteen, members, and of these seven are officials and only five non-officials. This is certainly not fair. Again, the most important interest in the country is the landed interest, and the practice has always been to secure one or more zemindars to represent it, and truth to say, some of the ablest members of the Council came from the Zemindar class; but for the last two or three years this class has been deliberately excluded. There is no one now to represent that class in the Council. Why this exclusion has been made it is hard to say. We would fain believe that Sir Steuart Bayley has not been induced to recognise it with any deliberate intention to snub the richest and most influential class under his rule; but we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that it has been excluded, and it is sure to be brought forward at the Madras Congress in support of the resolution for a reorganization of the Council.

A PITIFUL EXHIBITION.

'HAL Hunt lived in America. He was just six years old, but seemed bound to make a fizz wherever he went. He was always popping up in odd places, and frightening nervous old ladies, and little two-year olders, who had ventured away from their mothers' apronstrings. Every cat and dog for ten miles round made for the nearest port when Hal and his torn straw-hat loomed up in the distance.' This peculiarity of Hal was not confined to him. It has often manifested itself in odd places. Some children of a larger growth likewise fizz at all times and everywhere, mantling, or lathering, or sparkling, or frothing in an amusing style. They never can sit still, or assume a grave dignified demeanour. At the festive board they may be, as sparkling ranconteurs pleasant adjuncts, provided they do not assume the repulsiveness of the "Autocrat of the Breakfast Table," even-as *vin champagne moussuex* or Allsop not over ripe; but in the hard work-day world, they too often prove a nuisance. Unfortunately they do not bear this distinction in mind. Sir Lepel Griffin is a Knight of this type. He is a smart writer, always bold, vigorous, and poignant, but he cannot repress his penchant for fizzing. Wherever he goes he creates a hubbub. Touring in America for a couple of months with the sole object of sight-seeing, he set the Missisipi on fire, and in India, in every province in which he has served, his name has become synonymous with Black Douglas to frighten little children. The most notable instance of his tendency to fizz was displayed the other day when he was invited to preside at the laying of the foundation of a Public Library and Museum at Lashkar. It was an occasion which called for an oration on Literature and Science; but such a task was not in keeping with the *penchant* for fizzing, and so the gallant Knight, forsaking the primrose path of literature, gave full vent to his powers of vituperation. With his mind greatly agitated by certain disclosures recently made by a native print, he poured forth the most unmitigated rhodomontade for the race of the editor of that print. A fisherwoman in Calcutta under the deepest annoyance would have contented herself with the fourteen nearest ancestors of the offenders, but Sir Lepel could not rest satisfied with any thing under the whole race. Not to do him any injustice we give him the benefit of our columns for a wide circulation to his froth. The extract is long, but we are satisfied that our readers will enjoy it.

'One of the reasons for which I urge you, Mahrattas, to utilise the educational advantages which we offer you is that you may take your rightful intellectual place in India, and keep the Bengalis, who are now everywhere very active, in their proper place. You are their superiors in ability, in strength, and in courage. They are only your superiors in noise and volubility. If they should be your leaders it would be an army of lions commanded by grasshoppers. If you look at the history of the world you will find that strong nations, like the English, Mahrattas, Rajputs, and Sikhs were never ruled by weak and unwarlike races like the Bengalis. Courage is the quality which governs the world, and the bravest people are everywhere, and justly, triumphant. Do not then allow the Bengalis to deceive you with their talk about National Congresses and representative institutions. Be content with your own Mahratta nationality; and believe me that representative institutions are as much suited to India as they are to the moon. India is composed of many different nations, with very little in common; and it is as foolish to hope to unite them as to join in one nation Russians, Frenchmen, and Englishmen, who are more closely connected by civilization and descent than the various peoples of India. The so-called National Congress is a sham; and the delegates are only appointed by themselves and their friends. Hindus of position and authority will not join it; and the only Mahomedans who attend are a few obscure and notoriety-seeking persons. How do you believe that anything national can come out of a meeting where the chief promoters have lost their own nationality, and have adopted the dress and food and ways of foreigners? My advice to you, Mahrattas, is to distrust natives of India who have given up their caste and their national dress. Cherish and observe your ancient and noble religion. Cherish and observe strictly your rules of caste, which missionaries and philanthropists tell you is a bad thing, but which is, in reality, the mortar which holds together the building of Indian society. If you take it away, nothing will be left but ruins. There are many bad and inconvenient things in caste: but its advantages are greater than its evils. We cannot have perfection; and if we destroyed everything that was not perfect, we should have to get rid of all our friends and, possibly, make away with ourselves.'

As a specimen of high fallutin this is perfect, and as a tit-for-tat not bad in its way; but it is not likely to serve the end for which it has been put forth. It is designed to serve as a dynamite hand-grenade; but it has fizzed like a monster squib. The Marhattas of Gwalior are too sensible, too wide-awake, too familiar with the ways of the world, to be taken in by it. They know well the story of the lion which advised ten lusty bulls of a fold to graze in separate fields, and how, when the silly animals followed the advice, were eaten up by the adviser; and they are not at all likely to follow suit The question, however, remains how far it is proper for an officer in the position of an Agent to the Governor-General in Council to scatter broadcast the seeds of disunion and discord among the different sections of Her Majesty's Loyal subjects? It is generally taken for granted that an Agent to the Governor-General generally speaks out the sentiments of his employer. On a ceremonial State occasion like laying the foundation stone of a public building, this inference is a matter of course; but it would be an insult to the good sense of the nobleman under whom we live to suppose for a moment that he can be privy to such a pitiful exhibition as the one in which Sir Lepel was the principal actor the other day. No, no, Lord Dufferin knows nothing of it, and the whole thing is an ebullition of bile from a constitutionally captious being whose liver has been completely upset by too long a residence in this country. It is well that he should soon go to that grave of

Indian reputation, the House of Commons, where he will find his level, and cease from setting the people of India by their ears.

BENGAL POLICE.

WE deferred to notice the Government Resolution on the administration of the Police for the past year, as published in the *Calcutta Gazette*, pending the receipt of the usual Report by the Head of the Department. We have now received the last and proceed to make a few remarks not only on the Report itself, but also on the present system of Police in these provinces.

Our readers may not be fully aware that the total strength of our police force consists of :—

Inspector General	...	1
Deputy Inspectors General	...	2
Personal Assistant	...	1
District Superintendents	...	41
Assistant Superintendents	...	27
Inspectors	...	169
Sub-inspectors	...	900
Head-constables	...	2,352
Constables	...	19,269

The last includes 3 European and 32 mounted constables.

The cost of the force employed in purely police work is estimated at Rs. 26,00,711, which gives a ratio of 7 annas 5 pies per head of the population of the Lower Provinces. Rs. 601,974, we find, is charged to the revenue of the Province for the pay and establishment of the inspecting agency and the salaries of District and Assistant Superintendents of Police. We find also that out of a total of 68 District and Assistant Superintendents of Police there are only 3 Native District and Assistant Superintendents, though in point of fact there is, we believe, only one native District Superintendent and two Assistant Superintendents, all the higher posts being monopolised by Europeans, a monopoly to which we would draw the attention of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor. The report is altogether silent as regards the work actually done by the Assistant Superintendents of Police, who are a purely ornamental body ; all that is known about their work is that they hold charge of the office of the District Superintendent when he is away from the head quarters ; they are no better than supernumeraries hitherto mostly the *bhaibunds* of the big officials. Thanks to the present ruler of Bengal, there is now a competetive examination before appointment. The work generally performed by these Assistant Superintendents can better be, and is actually, done by the Senior Inspector in a District where there is no Assistant Superintendent of Police. The real Police work is entirely in the hands of the subordinate officers, who are generally the Sub-Inspectors, assisted by a large body of Head-constables. They are mostly in charge of all Police Stations, the outposts being held by the Head-constables, all acting apparently in subordination to the divisional Inspector, who occasionally goes out on inspection, but very seldom interferes with Police enquiries conducted by the sub-Inspector or the Head-constable, whose initiative pay is Rs. 10, rising to Rs. 25 a month. We wish the report had given some statistics of the number of cases investigated by the Sub-Inspectors and the Head-constables respectively, and the relative proportion of arrests and convictions o acquittals and discharges, as we have always been of opinion that the less the low-paid Head-constables were employed in the investigation of cases in the far Muffassil the better it would serve the interests of justice. The total number of reported cases during the year, including 1,432 cases of the previous year, was 107,245, of which 5852 were declared false, and 9 per cent of the cases reported as false by the Police in C. Form was found to be true cases. The number of cases actually enquired into by the Police was 88,039, and the percentage of convictions to true cases was 38·8. The number of persons arrested and sent up for trial by the police during the year was 76,487, of whom 52,187 were convicted against 24,300 acquitted or discharged. Making all allowances we have still an astounding figure which brings to light the fact that a very large number of innocent persons must have been unnecessarily subjected to personal indignity, trouble and harassment, a result which must be taken as reflecting generally very little credit on the investigating officers concerned. As regards the general quality of the work done by the Police the Inspector-General, in para. 511 of his report, remarks :—"Judicial results are poor everywhere"; the provincial average has improved, "but it is very far from being satisfactory, and *unfortunately there is little hope of any permanent improvement.*" The italics are our own. The feeling of despondency observable in the extracts we have made from the Report requires explanation. We are not told whether the highly unsatisfactory result complained of is due generally to the character of the Police, or to the action or attitude of the Courts which are almost everywhere presided over by a body of intelligent and educated officers of all grades. For whomsoever the remarks might have been intended, it cannot be denied that they convey a grave reflection on somebody or other. For the sake of truth and justice Mr. Veasey should have been, we think, more explicit and precise. If the drawback was attributable to the conduct of the Police, it should have been fully stated and proper remedial measures suggested. If, on the other hand, the strictures had reference to judicial trials of cases sent up by the police, the least that we can say, considering the present deplorable state of the police force in Bengal, is that silence would have been more appropriate.

THE BUDGET IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE *Pioneer* had hoped to discredit the movement set on foot by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for the discussion of the annual Budget in the Viceregal Council by inducing the Madras, Bombay and Karachi Chambers not to endorse the views of the Bengal Chamber. But this righteous determination of our contemporary has been defeated, and the Madras Chamber has spoken out, and we have no doubt the other Chambers will follow. The following extract from the representation of the Madras Chamber is well worth reproducing and is supported by the unanimous verdict of the Press :—

'This state of things is so out of accord with the spirit of the age, and is so much at variance with the efforts of the Government to develop Local-Self-Government, that this Chamber shares the opinion of the Bengal Chamber that it is desirable to make such a change in the Indian Council's Act as shall permit of an annual discussion of the Budget in the Legislative Council of his Excellency the Viceroy. The Government has nothing to fear from such discussion since its aim is not to shelter the theories of the Finance Minister from legitimate criticism at the hands of men of practical experience, but to do what is best calculated to promote the financial and general welfare of the country. The prolixity and the technicality of the Resolutions which embody the annual expositions of the Finance Minister deter a great majority of the people from reading them when they appear in the *Gazette of India*, and the opinion is widely held that the system now adopted for taking the country into the financial confidence of the Government, is ill calculated to convince the country that it is governed on economical principles. The recent recourse to the form of taxation that has been unequivocally condemned as unsuitable for India by three successive Finance Ministers and the apprehension that a further taxation is immediate, are arguments that may be employed in support of the contention that the country should be allowed a real voice in the management of its financial affairs. Looking to the rapid advance of education and intelligence in India since 1861, it may be found that a restriction of the prerogative of the Vice-regal Legislative Council, which may have been expedient when the Indian Council's Act was passed, is now anomalous. The country may reasonably desire to be assured by other than officials, and therefore interested authorities, that all extravagance is checked, that a rigid economy is enforced by the Financial Department, and it may be excused for desiring to be satisfied that its finances are invariably administered in the interest of India alone. The inelasticity of the revenue is as marked as the persistent tendency of expenditure to increase, and the Government has need of all the aid it can command in directing that finance which has been described by a great Statesman, as the key of England's position in India.

The Madras Congress, while having to say a great many things on the broader question, will, we dare say, entirely endorse these views, and it will be difficult for Government to ignore so unanimous and so strong an expression of opinion. The new Finance Minister has a difficult task before him no doubt; but that should not be enough reason for shirking work.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES

THE annual State Ball will take place this season at Government House on Thursday, the 12th of January.

THE Viceroy's levee on Tuesday last was attended by a very large number of native and European gentlemen.

PARLIAMENT will meet on the 9th of February.

THE examinations for Secretariat clerkships have been postponed on account of the holidays.

THE repairs of the Police Court buildings have been completed. The Courts will remove from the Town Hall to-day.

A PARTY of tribal Maliks from the Khyber will probably visit Calcutta before long, accompanied by Major Warburton, the Political Officer in the Pass.

ABOUT 70 delegates for the Madras Congress have left by the *Navessa*.

SIR Charles Bernard will come out to take up the Mysore Residency towards the end of March, or early in April.

IT IS reported that Dr. R. Lidderdale, Sanitary Commissioner for Bengal, will probably retire in 1888.

HIS Excellency the Viceroy has become the patron of the Ganges Anti-Polution Society. Some good may come of it now.

BILKIS JAHAN, the favorite grand-daughter of Her Highness the Begum of Bhopal, died yesterday afternoon.

TECHNICAL education does not promise to make much head in Bengal. It is announced that, owing to want of funds, the proposed scheme for establishing an experimental technical institution either at the Presidency, or in the Mofussil, by the Education Department has been reserved for the next official year, when some saving may be effected in the department.

NOTHING definite has yet been announced from Nepal; but there can be no doubt that the affairs there are as unsettled as ever. Early in the week it was reported that Ranbir's *coup* had proved unsuccessful, and the Durbar party had prevailed. But though Ranbir's whereabouts were not known it was reported that his relatives were organising a force. It now appears that Ranbir had never been with the party who entered Nepal from Segowlie and was discomfited, but made a detour from Durbhanga and left his followers to make a diversion in the Segowlie route. A force of four thousand men is reported to have been got together, and the Jailman Kutcherry is said to have been seized. Particulars of the revolution are awaited with anxiety and are said to be unknown to Bir Shumshere's friends in Calcutta.

EGYPTIAN peace seems to be threatened once more. It is reported that Osman Digma is at Handoub with a large force.

THE way in which some of our Anglo-Indian contemporaries had taken to "preparing the ground" might have well made one suspect that a fresh Gagging Act was brewing. But we had our doubts, as we could not bring ourselves to think that a discreet and enlightened statesman like Lord Dufferin could ever allow himself to countenance such an iniquitous and unstatesman-like measure. A Lord Lytton has to be specially imported for carrying through a dirty work of this description, and his Lordship ought to be by this time safely ensconced in some delightful Paris boudoir. It is reassuring to hear the *Englishman* speak with a knowing-like air that there is no foundation for the statement that a Press Act is being prepared in the India Office. At least the Government of India knows nothing about the matter, and the Home authorities are not at all likely to take up such a measure without due consultation.

IN future cheques are to be accepted in payment of the Income-Tax. This will save a great deal of trouble to business-men, and ought to have been conceded long ago.

A CONTEMPORARY thinks that in Bengal the cultivators as a class are by no means so hopeless in the matter of debt as they once were, although there is plenty of room for improvement. Our contemporary comes to this conclusion because out of a total grant of Rupees 1,50,000 sanctioned for advances under the Agriculturists' Loans Act of 1884 in Bengal for the year 1886-87, the amount actually disbursed was only Rupees 822. We are afraid that the conclusion is fallacious, and that proper facilities have not been afforded to the poor ryots to avail of these loans, or that the conditions imposed are too hard to be complied with. The Bengal ryot is proverbially poor and would be glad beyond measure of any help coming in his way.

AS SOON as the labours of the Public Service Commission are over, the Hon'ble Justice Ramesh Chandra Mitra will go on leave for 9 months. A contemporary hears that Mr. Justice Mitra will most likely retire after the expiry of his leave. We have reason to believe that there is no truth in the rumour. Mr. Mitra is one of the hardest working Judges of the High Court and the Public Service Commission has been a severe strain on his energies. All that he wants is to recruit his health, which is now somewhat feeble. May he long continue to preside over the bench of which he is an honor and ornament.

SIR Charles Elliott arrived in Calcutta on Thursday, and took charge of his new appointment on Friday afternoon. Sir Theodore Hope left Calcutta the same evening, and sails from Bombay on the 13th of January. Sir Charles Elliott has made a name in connection with the Finance Committee and has thoroughly acquainted himself with the wants and resources of the Empire. With his accession to power a more judicious public works policy will, it is hoped, be initiated.

ACTIVE canvassing is going on for the Secretaryship of the Calcutta Municipality which falls vacant on Mr. Turnbull's retirement. The post, however, will be shorn of much of its glory and emolument with the retirement of Mr. Turnbull. At the meeting of the Town Council, held on Saturday before last, it was resolved that the Commissioners be recommended to allow the new incumbent, who will fill Mr. Turnbull's place on his retirement, a salary of Rs. 600, rising to Rs. 800 a month, by annual increments.

THE Calcutta Swimming Bath was opened on Monday last by Sir Steuart Bayley in the presence of a large number of European ladies and gentlemen. The building has been erected in a very short time, and has cost 40,000 Rupees. The bath is a hundred feet long, 34 wide and 9 deep. Dining rooms, and lavatories have been fitted up, and there is to be a gymnaseum. The bath is to be reserved for ladies twice a week. The old Municipal resorvoirs formerly used for storing water for flushing the town sewers have been made over for being utilised as settling tanks and filters for the bath.

THE Government of India has confirmed the action of the Bengal Government in reducing the maximum pay of its Bengali Translator from Rupees 700 to Rupees 500 a month.

A CORRESPONDENT brings to our notice that the *Bangabasi* series of Sanskrit texts commenced after, and not before, as lately stated by us, the series now being issued by Babu Mahesachandra Pal. The latter commenced in December 1882.

THE permanancy of the Metropolitan Institution, the monument of Pandit Iswara Chandra Vidyasagar's devotion in the cause of Education in this country, is now ensured. The new building of the School in Sunker Ghose's lane is now complete. The College Department was removed to the new building, after the opening of the current session, the junior or school department will be located in the building from the commencement of January next.

WE are glad to find that the vigorous representation made to Government in regard to the Outstill question have had some effect. Sir Steuart Bayley necessarily feels himself hampered by the action of his predecessors, and is naturally unwilling to disturb existing arrangements, except on very strong grounds. Very strong grounds have been furnished by the facts and figures brought before the Government, and it remains to be seen what action will be taken on them. That something will be done appears certain. The Government wishes to verify these facts and figures, and has deputed Mr. Westmacott, the Magistrate of Howrah, to enquire into the system as obtaining in Hughly, and Howrah. Mr. Westmacott has had opportunities of acquiring considerable local experience in connection with the chowkidary enquiry, and his selection has no doubt been a good one. It would, however, be well to associate with him in the enquiry some non-official gentleman who is a resident of the district and knows it well.

WE are glad to find that the appeal in behalf of the Michael Madhusudan Dutt Tomb Stone Erection Fund has been responded to. The Maharaja of Durbhunga has subscribed a hundred rupees, and Raja Rajendro Narayan Roy of Joydebpore, Dacca, has subscribed 200. Mr. R. C. Dutt in sending his quota to the fund hopes that future generations of our countrymen will visit the tomb as European tourists visit Stratford-on-Avon or Dryburgh Abbey.

THE Government of India has declined to sanction the proposal of the Eastern Bengal Railway to construct a branch line to the Petroleum Depot at Budge-Budge. The Calcutta Port Trust are not satisfied with the refusal and have asked that the matter may be reconsidered.

WE notice with pleasure one more instance of munificent Indian liberality. Our distinguished townsman Raja Durga Churn Law, Bahadur, C. I. E., the merchant-prince of Calcutta, has made a present of Rs. 10,000 to the Calcutta Charitable Society of which a thousand rupees is to go to the Leper Asylum. A further sum of Rs. 5,000 has been presented to the Mayo Hospital. May the Raja Bahadur be spared long to help the suffering poor of his country.

THERE is to be, we hear, a Chapter in the Government House next month. Many distinguished persons will be invited to attend, among whom will be some of our Feudatories.

THE Hon'ble Mr. Westland goes on leave in March next when Mr. Barbour comes and take charge of the Financial Post.

THE enquiry of the Military Court about the riots in Bombay during the last Maharram has resulted in the removal of several native officers of 17th Bombay Native Infantry from the service. We are glad that the offenders have been taken to justice. Military discipline ought to be maintained at any cost.

SIR CHARLES AITCHISON, who was lately ailing, is, we are glad to hear, well, and the completion of the report of the Public Service Commission will not be delayed by his illness. In fact the Commission have closed their labours and had their final sitting on Friday. The report is ready and has been signed by all the members present. It will not, however, be made public till the permission of the Secretary of State has been received. In dismissing the members Sir Charles thanked them in the name of the Viceroy for their arduous labours and hearty co-operation. Raja Udai Pratab Sing, of Bhinga, one of the members of the Commission, left for Benares the same evening.

A QUESTION of considerable legal importance has been raised in the Calcutta Police Court. The disgusting practice of *Phooka* is known to be very prevalent among milkmen, and one of them has been prosecuted for resorting to it. The charge has been made out against him, but it is contended on behalf of the defence that the process though painful to some extent is not such "wanton and cruel usage" as is contemplated by the Legislature as punishable. Every process on animals from the shoeing of horses upwards is attended with more or less pain, and the *bonafides* of the operator have to be considered. It transpired in medical evidence that the process only affects the animal's health, and not the quality or quantity of the milk as is erroneously supposed. The Court has taken time to consider its judgment.

MESSRS. SMITH STANISTREET & Co., of this city, are said to have discovered a serviceable food preservative powder which may be used with effect for dressed as well as raw food. In burning July days when the ordinary articles of diet are liable to get unfit for human consumption in no time the powder ought to be very useful, if it has the qualities claimed for it.

SIR AUCKLAND COLVIN will leave Allahabad for Lucknow on the 4th proximo.

THE Hon. F. Forbes Adam, of Messrs. W. and A. Graham and Co., has been elected Chairman of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce for the ensuing year. Mr. Adam's well-known sympathies with natives of this country make the news very welcome. At a time when the Bombay mill-owners are being seriously threatened by the British Chambers of Commerce and British merchants, and the depreciation in the trade of Lancashire goods is attributed to the competition of Bombay, and steps are being taken for putting it down, the chairman of the Bombay Chamber should rightly be one who can feel for the indigenous industries.

A MADRAS contemporary informs us that matters are getting very unpleasant at Travancore. The Resident recently reported the Elia Rajah for attempting to offer a bribe to him. The Elia Raja has now brought a counter-charge against the Resident. The rupture between the Elia Rajah and the Maharaja has been widened on account of the machinations of Saravani, the royal favorite. Communication has been opened with Mr. Eardley Norton, Mr. Grant, and the Honorable Subramonya Iyer by the Elia Rajah. The Madras Government have appointed Mr. Stokes, Chief Secretary, to investigate the dispute between the Resident and the Elia Rajah.

THE indiscretions of Maharaja Dhalip Sing are about to be visited on those who are suspected of sympathy for the poor prince. The Nanak Sabha picture incident with which the Raja of Faridkote was unsuccessfully sought to be connected has given some clue to officials bent on a hunt of intriguers. A Shik priest of the name of Prubass Sing has been arrested in the Punjab and is said to be in Dhalip's pay, though what this pay is supposed to be for has not been made apparent. This added to the story of two dying Kabuli fruit-sellers of Delhi having been discovered to be in possession of Russian passports is sought to give colour to the belief that Dhalip or his agents have succeeded in making some impression in the Punjab, though nobody yet has said so openly. The Government has serious business of its own to take care of, we fancy, and should curb a little the flight of imagination of its Foreign Department. Punjab's loyality is as unimpeachable as Indian loyalty, and he is a traitor to the Queen-Empress who dares impugn it even by insinuation.

WE have received the following official intelligence from the Press Commissioner's Office: 'Nawab Sir Ikbal-ud-Daula of the Oudh family, died at Baghdad on the 21st instant. He was made a Knight Grand Commander of the Star of India in May 1882. He had been very infirm for some time past.'

WAR clouds continue to hang all over the European sky. The menacing attitude of Russia towards Austria remains unaltered, and Austria is making considerable additions to its military equipments for which large sums have been voted. The German Emperor has had important conferences with Count Von Moltke, and the Crown Prince's eldest son; and in distributing the customary Christmas presents to the German Army, has expressed grave anxiety about the future. Lord Salisbury also regards the situation as very uncertain, and though war may not be imminent His Lordship is not without apprehension it may break out any time without warning. Unless something satisfactory is done with regard to Bulgarian affairs matters may not glide on quite smoothly in that quarter. It is, however, believed that Germany, Austria and Italy are disposed to favour the removal of Prince Ferdinand from the throne of Bulgaria, which would have the effect of conciliating Russia, and would also permit of a peaceable settlement of the Bulgarian question.

WE have had lately so many conflicting reports about the health of the Crown Prince of Germany that it is impossible to accept any as correct. It is, however, gratifying to hear that the latest reports are more encouraging. A marked improvement has, it is said, taken place, and the inflammation is diminishing. Sir Morell Mackenzie, who has again been summoned, positively doubts whether the growth is cancerous at all.

HUGHLY and Howrah are not the only Districts that are suffering from the reckless introduction of the outstill system. A letter that the Rev. Mr. Hacgret of the Santhal Mission has addressed to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor shows that the ravages the system is committing in the Santhal Purgunas are, if possible, greater. In one single Purgunna there are eight liquor shops and the produce of the fields of the simple Santhals find their way to these shops, their wives and children are starved and go naked, and they are unable to pay the land taxes. Scores of women have lost their little farms, and children have been rendered homeless and rove about in the jungles in quest of food. And this is in tracts where there used before to reign peace, plenty and happiness. Such a picture of misery could hardly be surpassed, and as the letter observes the "Good Queen would be grieved to hear of it." The enquiry ordered by Sir Steuart Bayley in respect of Hughly and Howrah should extend to the Santal Purgannas as well as other affected tracts.

THE number of books, received by the Bengal Library during the second quarter, ending 30th June 1887, was 570 in all, out of which 325 were non-educational, and 245 were for educational purposes.

WE take the following particulars about Congress arrangements from a Madras Contemporary:

'The real business of the Congress will commence on Wednesday, the 28th instant. There will be three days' discussion, *viz.*, the 28th, the 29th, and the 30th, from 11 A.M. to 5 P.M., on each day, with a short interval for lunch. The arrangements of the Madras Committee for holding the Congress are progressing satisfactorily, and everything will be ready in three or four days. The comfort, convenience, and tastes of the delegates have been consulted in minute details, each separate caste being provided with separate quarters, and the wants of each being carefully attended to. Three large bungalows have been engaged for the accommodation of the delegates. The meetings of the Congress will be held in a pandal, which is 130 feet long by 95 feet broad, and in which accommodation will be provided for 600 delegates and about 1,000 spectators. A space, 15 feet wide, round the pandal, has been reserved for the general public, the admission to which will be by tickets. The Health Officer of the Municipality has undertaken to supervise the conservancy arrangements. Nobody will be refused admission, and every body who chooses may attend the meetings of the Congress, for benches will be arranged all round outside the pandal, which will be open on all sides. Separate accommodation will be provided for Mahomedans, Native Christians, &c., in bungalows rented for the purpose. The expenses of the Congress are very heavy, but public subscriptions are coming in fast. Over Rs. 2,000 has been paid for the hire of furniture alone, the several pandals which have been erected cost about Rs. 1,500, or Rs. 2,000; the rent to be paid for McKay's Gardens for the month is Rs. 250; the hire of carriages will come to something large (at the Congress held last year the "carriage hire" item amounted to over Rs. 600 a day); and the boarding of the delegates will cost about Rs. 5,000.'

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Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette,—*21th December 1887.*

GENERAL.—The Lieutenant-Governor accepts the resignation Tendered by the Revd. W. Kitchin of his appointment as Honorary Chaplain of the Dacca Volunteer Rifle Corps.

The services of Moulvi Majimuddin Ahmed, Sub-Deputy Collector, Bhagulpore, are placed at the disposal of the Revenue Department of this Government for employment on demarcating a portion of the Singbhum-Lohardugga boundary and the Singbhum-Boanai and Gangporea bounpary.

Babu Baroda Dass Bose, Sub-Deputy Collector, Palamow Lohardugga, on leave, is to Bhaugulpore,

Babu Hurro Chunder Ghose, Temporary Sub-Deputy Collector, Hugly, is transferred to Lohar luggn, and is posted to the Palamow Sub-Division of that distridt.

Mr. C. A. Wilkins, Officiating District and Sessions Judge, Bhaugulpore, is appointed to act, until further orders in the first grade of Districtr and Sessions Judges, with effect from the 4th Septembe 1887, vice Mr. J. 1. Grant, on furiough.

Mr, J, Crawfurd, District and Session Judge, Nuddea, is appointed to act, until further orders, in the first grade of Dis trict and Sessions Judge with effect from the 12th instant, vice Mr. c. B. Kelly.

Mr. A. A. Wace, Magistrate and Collector, Bhaugulpore noted in the first grade of Magistrates and Collectors from the 25th August, vice Mr. A. Manson, on privilege leave, up to the afternoon of the 4th November 1887.

Mr. M. Fiuncane, Director of Land Records, Bengal, acted in the first grade of Magistrates and Collectors from the 26th August up to the afternoon of the 3rd November 1887.

Mr. H. G, Cooke, Magistrate and Colector, Purneath, acted in the first grade of Magistrates and Collectors, from the 26th August, vice Mr. E V. Westmacott, on deputation, up to the afternoon of the 3rd November 1887.

Mr. C. A. Samuells, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Mozufferpore, acted in the first grade of Magistrates and Collectors from the 2nd September, vice Mr. A. Forbes, off privilege leave, up to the efternoon of the 26ih October 1887.

Mr. F. H. Barrow, Officiating Magistrate and Collecor, Jessore, acted in the first grade of Magiftrates and Collectors from the 2nd September up to the afternoon of that 26th October 1887, vice Mr. C. A. Samnells, on privilege leave.

Mr. J. A. Bourdillon, Officiating Mrgistrate and Collector, Sarun, acted in the first grade of Magistrates and Collectors from the 3rd September 1887, vice Mr. G. Toynbee on privilege leave, up to the afternoon of the 23rd idem.

Mr. Bourdillon also acted in the first grade of Magistrate and Collectors from the 4th October, vice Mr. F. H. Barrow on privejege leava, up to tqe afternooo of the 26th idem.

Mr. J. Scobell Armstrong, Collector of Customs, Calcutta is appointed to act, until further orders, in the first grade of

of Magistrates and Collectors, with effect from the 15th November 1887, vice Mr. W. M. Clay, on furlough.

Mr. C. H. Vowell, Magistrate and Collector, Midnapur is appointed to act, until fur her orders, in the first grade of Magistrates and Collectors, with effect from the 6th instant, vice Mr. T. Norman.

Mr. D B. Allen, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Jessore, acted in the second grade of Magistrates and Collectors from the 25th August, vice Mr. A. A. Wace, up to the afternoon of the 9th November 1887.

Mr. H. Savage, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Maldah, acted in the second grade of Magistrates and Collectors from the 26th August, vice Mr. A. A. Wace, up to the afternoon of the 26th October 1887.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.—Moulvi Fuzoul Karim, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Silligori, Darjiling, is vested with the powers of a Munsiff in the District of Dinagepore, to be ordinarily stationed at Silligori.

Mr. Charles Kemp is appointed to be an Honorary Magistrate for the Bench at the sudder station of the Monghyr District, and is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class.

Babu Nityananda Bhar, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Rajshahye, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class.

Babu Horo Gobind Mukerji, Munsiff of Perozepore, Backergunge, is appointed to act as Subordinate Judge of Manbhum for three months.

Babu Brojendro Lal Dey, M A., B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsiff in the District of Backergunge, to be ordinarily stationed at Perozepore, during the absence, on deputation, of Babu Hurro Gobind Mukerji, or until further orders.

Moulvi Mobaruck Ali, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Dumka, Southal Pergunnahs, is vested with the powers of a Munsiff.

Moulvi Ali Ahmad, B. L., is appointed to act as a Munsiff in the District of Tipperah, to be ordinarily stationed at Comillah, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Chunder Prosunno Dutt, or further orders, with effect from the date on which he joined his appointment.

Advertisements.

Applications to be accompanied with copies of testimonials, will be received by the undersigned up to 4 P. M. of Tuesday, the 3rd of January, for the appointment of Secretary to the Corporation of Calcutta, which will be vacant from the 1st April 1888.

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434 *Manager.*

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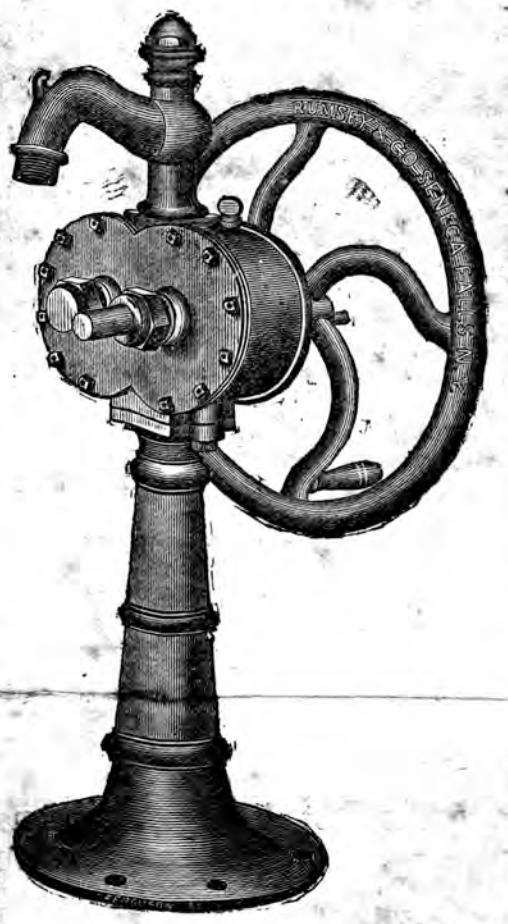

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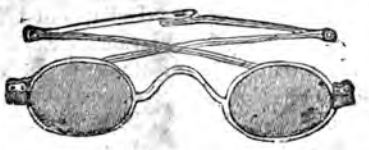

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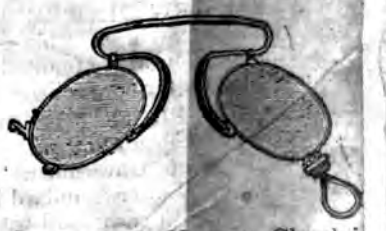

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